

## CHAPTER VI: A HEADQUARTERS POST 1878-1887

### A. The Division Moves to the Presidio

Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell took charge of the Military Department of the Pacific and the Department of California in July 1876. He established his residence in an officer's quarters at Point San Jose (Fort Mason) and his offices in the Phelan Building in downtown San Francisco. Not satisfied with his quarters, the general had a large handsome residence constructed at Fort Mason from where he could ride comfortably to the downtown office or work in a personal library at home. Until then the Army customarily established regional headquarters in the appropriate cities, such as Chicago, St. Paul, Denver, Omaha, etc., that offered good communications and transportation. On the Pacific Coast San Francisco and Portland, Oregon, served admirably for these purposes. City real estate developers also favored the custom.

In 1878, in a move to instill economy in army operations, a congressional act approved on June 18 resulted in the Army's commanding general, William Sherman, ordering all the military headquarters to give up their rented facilities and move to the nearest army posts. On the West Coast the combined Military Division of the Pacific and the Department of California moved out to the Presidio. The Department of the Columbia crossed the river and set up shop at Vancouver Barracks in Washington Territory.<sup>1</sup>

At that time McDowell's staff amounted to fifteen officers and twenty "General Service" clerks, most of whom were married. Out at the Presidio the garrison in the summer of 1878 counted eighteen officers and 254 enlisted men under the command of Col. William H. "old Blinky" French, 4th Artillery. This fairly large command occupied the greater part of the quarters and barracks then at the main post. Since funds did not exist for much new construction, a solution had to be found quickly to make room for the Division personnel. That event occurred in June when mass transfers took place. Presidio troops moved to Alcatraz and Angel islands and to Nevada; Colonel French himself crossed the bay to Angel Island.

---

1. Oliver Otis Howard, *Autobiography* (New York: Baker and Taylor, 1907), p. 549; Raphael P. Thian, compiler, *Notes Illustrating the Military Geography of the United States, 1913-1980* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1979), p. 55. Sherman had considered such moves as early as 1871, but Congress had refused to make any appropriations. E.D. Townsend, March 30, 1871 to Military Division of the Pacific, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

The post complement now consisted of seven officers and sixty-two men of the 4th Artillery under the command of Capt. Henry C. Hasbrouck. On September 16, Capt. John Egan, 4th Artillery, and Batteries A and K (five officers and sixty-one men) reoccupied Fort Point.<sup>2</sup>

Work began in August 1878 on the remodeling of Presidio structures. General McDowell personally directed the changes. The most visible change involved officers' row, including the hospital at the north end and the BOQ at the south. While the basic form of the twelve cottages remained intact, all their appendages on the east side (facing the city), including bathrooms, servants' quarters, an occasional stable, gardens, sheds, and the like, were removed. The quartermaster then built new additions to the west side, including bathrooms and water closets. The effect was to reverse the front and rear sides of the buildings so that the rears now faced the parade – an architectural event that must have been unique in the history of army architecture. From now on visitors from the city to army headquarters first came upon the handsome row of Civil War cottages, their facades smiling upon them.

The Corral's sixteen two room apartments underwent changes to become enlarged quarters for officer families. At the hospital, the upper floor of the ell on the southeast corner of the building, which had originally served as a prison ward, was detached from the building and made into a comfortable residence for the hospital steward a short distance away. The brick lower floor of the ell, which served as a morgue, remained for the time being. Other changes affecting the hospital included moving a latrine to the new rear (west), extending the porch on the new front (east), repairing the plumbing, and laying a new sewer.<sup>3</sup>

Quartermaster Holabird described the remodeled officers' quarters:

Buildings 1 and 2 (today's 16 and 15) each had four rooms and a kitchen on the main floor and four very small attic rooms. Both were ready for occupancy. The Division inspector general, Col. Edmund Schriver, occupied 1 (16) and 2 (15) was scheduled for Chaplain Daniel Kendig.

---

2. Post Returns, PSF, 1878; Post Returns, Fort Point, 1878; and Division of the Pacific Returns, 1878-1879.

3. Cost of moving the hospital wing - \$66.50. Materials required - redwood, pine, shingles, laths, moulding, lime, balustrade, 30 pounds of hair, Plaster of Paris, nails, 2 doors, 3 windows, blinds, butts, locks, white lead, English ochre in oil, burnt umber, burnt sienna, Indian red, orange chrome, coach black, and chrome green. Holabird, January 10, 1879, to QMG, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

Cottages 3 (14) and 4 (13) each had three rooms and a kitchen on the main floor. Painters had not quite finished with 3, but 4 already had an unnamed occupant.

Quarters 5 (12) had four rooms and a kitchen on the main floor and two finished attic rooms. The chaplain occupied it temporarily.

Building 6 (11), occupied by Holabird himself, had four rooms and a kitchen on the ground floor, four small attic rooms, and a small attic over the kitchen.

Quarters 7 (10) belonged to the Division adjutant general, Lt. Col. John C. Kelton, and had five rooms and a kitchen on the main floor, five small attic rooms and a small attic trunk room. This, the largest set on officers' row, had previously been the post commander's residence.

Quarters 8 (9), 9 (8), 10 (7), and 11 (6) were similar to 6 above.

Officers of the garrison now occupied these four.

Quarters 12 (5), formerly a duplex but now remodeled into the new residence for the post commander would be ready for occupancy as soon as the painters had finished.

A new set of quarters, 13 (4), had been constructed at the north end of the row out of the annexes, kitchens, and outhouses removed from its neighbor 12. It had four "very small" rooms and a kitchen on the main floor and three small attic rooms.

Across the parade ground McDowell selected two adjacent, one-story barracks and their kitchen buildings to be Division headquarters. Partitions divided this complex into twenty-one rooms. Fireproof paint and water barrels on the roofs gave some protection to the wood-frame structures.

The quartermaster also made improvements to other structures in the vicinity of the new headquarters. He placed a new floor and added ventilation to the prison room in the guardhouse. (No one noted, in writing at least, that the prison room was next door to the general's office.) The 1865, two-story barracks that had moved from the southwest corner of the parade in 1875 to the north end of the parade, now moved again.

McDowell wanted the grand view of the bay unimpeded and the building, now called "the barracks of the [Light] Battery Company," was shunted westward and placed in line with the rest of the barracks but at right angles to them. The occupants retained their view of the bay; so did the general.

Another significant move involved the post adjutant's office. Formerly adjacent to the guardhouse it now stood at the south end of the parade ground, between the chapel and the long adobe building. Its former site now became the opening for a new road leading to Fort Point.

Numerous other improvements made their appearance: new floors in the stables, new latrines for the guardhouse and the two batteries of artillery, roads graded and macadamized including the road to Fort Point, a new boiler and pump in the engine house, additional reservoir capacity, and new wind fences "to control the drifting sand and to protect walks and yards from the influence of the never-ceasing sea winds." Probably at this time wind fences were erected on both sides of the new road leading from the alameda, across the parade ground, to Division headquarters. This construction effectively cut the parade ground in two and led to references to the upper and lower parades.

Two of the old laundresses' quarters had been refitted to become gate lodges and moved to the reservation entrances at Lombard Street and Arguello Boulevard. The remaining laundresses' quarters became housing for the Division's General Service clerks. These, however, housed only a portion of the twenty men and their families. The remainder found quarters wanting. Undoubtedly at General McDowell's insistence, the command planted grass, lupin, and barley seed "to stop the march of the sand dunes . . . with very considerable success."<sup>4</sup>

---

4. Holabird, June 27, 1879, to QMG, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Holabird later served as the Quartermaster General, 1883-1890. The Division's general service men came in small detachments from many different regiments.

## **B. Life at a Headquarters Post – the Men**

By 1880 the population of the City of San Francisco had climbed to 234,000. The Presidio's population that year amounted to about 275 uniformed persons and an unknown number of women and children. Although only a tiny fraction of the city's masses, the post's daily life mirrored the metropolitan society, layered with a veneer of army regulation. Post Orders in 1880 set forth in detail the daily routine of the garrison:

1st call for reveille	4:50 a.m.
Reveille	5:00
Assembly	5:05
Stable call	5:05
Mess call	5:40
Surgeon's call	6:45
Fatigue call	7:00
Drill call	7:05
Assembly	7:05 (Sundays excepted)
Recall from drill	8:00
1st call, Guard mount	8:15
Assembly	8:25
Adjutant's call	8:30
Drill call	9:30
Assembly	9:45 (Sundays excepted)
Recall	10:45
Church call	10:45 (Sundays)
1st Sergeants call	11:30
Recall from fatigue	11:50 (Sundays excepted)
Mess call	12:00 noon
Fatigue call	1:00 p.m.
Fire call	2:00 (Saturdays only)
Stable call	4:00
Recall from fatigue	5:00
Recall from fatigue	3:00 (Saturdays)
Mess call	5:30
1st Call, Retreat	10 minutes before sunset
Assembly	Sunset
Retreat	Immediately after roll call
1st Call, Tattoo	8:50
Tattoo	9:00
Assembly	9:05
Extinguish lights	9:15
1st Call Sunday morning inspection	8:00 a.m.
Assembly,	8:10

Another order that same year set forth the procedures to be followed in case of fire, that always lurking foe:

At the fire signal, Light Battery B, 4th Artillery, will form and proceed to take charge of the fire carriages moving at once to the hydrant nearest the fire.

Battery H, 4th Artillery, will proceed to man the ladders and secure the axes.

Battery D, 4th Artillery, will equip itself with fire buckets and proceed to the fire.

Other men will remain in line, all maintaining silence.

The detachment of casualties and recruits will remain paraded in front of their quarters until assigned to duty.

The Commanding Officer of the post will be in charge, assisted by the Officer of the Day and Battery Commanders.<sup>5</sup>

Although bugle calls directed the post's activities from reveille to tattoo, the human story affected the soldiers' lives much the same as in the larger community. In 1879 Michael McBride, a discharged soldier from the Presidio, was found drowned in San Francisco Bay. On another occasion the chaplain received an order to officiate at the funeral of the late Pvt. William Foster, 4th Artillery. (The post quartermaster had authority to purchase coffins in the city providing they cost less than \$10.) Another officer had the unpleasant task of inventorying the effects of the late William Howe who committed suicide by jumping overboard from steamer *McPherson* while en route to the Alcatraz military prison. The report stated that his effects amounted to the clothes he wore and these had not been recovered. Occasionally the smallpox or measles brought death to the garrison. At such times the post surgeon took great care to isolate the disease. Concerning a death from measles, he recommended that children not attend the funeral and that

---

5. Orders 95, May 28, and Orders 156, September 27, 1880, Post Orders 1879-1880, PSF, RG 393, NA.

the pallbearers be soldiers who already had the measles.<sup>6</sup>

The Army recruited only single men in the post-Civil War years and discouraged enlisted men of the lower ranks from marriage on the grounds that they could not provide for families on their low pay. If a private did marry while on active duty, the chances were that he would not be allowed to reenlist. The plight of Pvt. Charles O'Rourke, 1st Artillery, illustrated the perils of married life. He had no fewer than four children and his wife was expecting another. Poor O'Rourke, however, was a prisoner in the guardhouse. Mrs. O'Rourke pleaded for a remission of his sentence.

Depending on the post commander, a sergeant too could find marriage a hindrance to a career. That happened to a Presidio sergeant in 1879. He had performed well as a mechanic on the guns and had been recommended for appointment to ordnance sergeant. His enlistment was running out; but he had married. His commander recommended his discharge yet wondered if he could keep him on duty for "a few months." Senior noncommissioned officers were another matter; they were allowed to have families on the post. Ordnance Sergeant Charles Lange had a wife and seven children at the Presidio in 1879. The commissary sergeant, Arthur Keusler, had five children, their ages ranging from three to twelve years.

The Army did not provide quarters for enlisted families. They lived in the laundresses' units or other unoccupied buildings on the reservation. Such an environment sometimes led to discord. There was the time when Pvt. Philip Frenger from the 5th Artillery Band went next door and beat on Sergeant Grimes' residence with a club. An investigation disclosed that the Grimes children had a long history of annoying neighbors and that Mrs. Grimes encouraged them in this behavior. The sergeant was warned that if the trouble continued, the family would have to leave the reservation. A similar complaint involving enlisted families occurred when the children of Private Blum beat incessantly on a drum. He received a similar warning.<sup>7</sup>

Arms, accoutrements, and various supplies often became the subjects of army correspondence. In 1879 a

---

6. Hasbrouck, March 13, 1879, to Superintendent, Soldiers' Home, Washington; Post Adjutant, July 7, 1880, to Post Chaplain; Andrews, June 29, 1881, to Adjutant General, all in Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA.

7. H.C. Hasbrouck, July 20, 1879, Post Endorsements, and October 29, 1879, to Division of the Pacific, Letters Sent, PSF; Piper, September 10, 1885, to Department of California, Letters Sent; Mrs. Mary O'Rourke, February 6, 1888, Register of Letters Received, 1887-1888; J. Coffin, August 7, 1891, and May 21, 1892, to CO, Battery B, 5th Artillery, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA.

battery commander requested nineteen new rifles. Some of his men had none and when on the rifle range had to share weapons, thus lowering their scores. On one occasion the band ran out of coal for cooking and heating. The post adjutant had to appeal to the Division for a solution. In 1883 the commanding officer hit upon an idea for having his soldiers dressed in smart-looking uniforms. He recommended sending a "measure book" that contained accurate measurements for every soldier to a San Francisco clothing factory. The cutters could then supply exact fits and send the uniforms to the Presidio with the soldiers' names attached to each. A post order in 1885 notified the command that the Commissary would sell tobacco, sixteen ounces to each man, on the first day of each month only. Presumably one could purchase additional amounts from the post trader.<sup>8</sup>

Both the Presidio and Fort Point received funds annually to pay the salaries of privates assigned to extra duty. In 1879 the Presidio assigned eight soldiers and five civilian women to such duty:

In Quartermaster Department – 1 carpenter, 1 teamster, 1 mail carrier,  
4 laborers  
Subsistence Department – 1 laborer  
Post Hospital – 2 matrons  
Battery B, 4th Artillery – 3 laundresses (technically outlawed in 1878)<sup>9</sup>

During this decade bullets had a way of flying about. On one occasion soldiers practicing skirmish firing hit the Marine Hospital on the southern border of the reservation. At the same range on another day Pvt. John Comfort accidentally wounded Pvt. Ted O'Voigh. Soldiers hunting ducks on the slough in the lower reservation shot up the Harbor View resort. The division commander, Maj. Gen. John Pope, brought a halt to this sport.<sup>10</sup> But garrison life had its happier times. An order came down in 1885 stating that all men who wished to attend the evening performance of "Hartican's Minstrels" were excused from tattoo. That same year the men were allowed to keep lamps and lanterns lit in the barracks for five hours in the evening. Two years later the men of the 1st Artillery learned that a dress parade had been canceled on account of the ceremony of the "Escort of the Color" for the new colors being presented to the 1st Artillery. On another occasion a special full dress parade honored those who had won places on the

---

8. Rodney, April 28, 1879; and Andrews, 1883, both in Post Endorsements, 1882-1884; Post Adjutant, December 22, 1880, to Department of California, Letters Sent; Circular, October 3, 1885, Post Orders, 1885-1886, PSF, RG 393, NA.

9. Post Returns, PSF, July 1879; *Daily Alta California*, July 25, 1885.

10. Pope, January 1, 1884, to CO, PSF, Post Endorsements, 1882-1884; Department of California, May 2, 1887, to CO, PSF, RG 393, NA.

Division Rifle Team.<sup>11</sup>

San Francisco and all of California experienced a series of woes in the 1870s – drought, depression, bank failure, stock swindle, rioting, and crop failures. As early as January 1878 the Division had warned the Presidio that certain unemployed men were threatening to overthrow the city government, threatening Chinese, and imperiling federal property in the area. San Francisco suffered an influx of unemployed workers who became riotous under a firebrand named Dennis Kearney who preached violent revolution and blamed the Chinese population for the city's troubles. Gangs preyed on the Chinese inflicting injury and even death. In July the post commander reported that the body of a Chinese man suspended from a tree by a hay rope had been found on the reservation. Two years later, in March 1880, the War Department alerted General McDowell that San Francisco's Chinese were threatened with violence, "I advise you to collect your force so as to have . . . a Battery of Light Artillery and a Battalion of about four hundred and fifty muskets. The Presidio and Angel Island are good points of concentration." By April the Presidio's garrison had tripled. Infantry, artillery, and cavalry troops stood guard.<sup>12</sup>

### **C. The Officers**

During the nine years the Military Division of the Pacific maintained its headquarters at the Presidio of San Francisco four general officers served as its commander: Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell, 1876-1882, Maj. Gen. John Schofield, 1882-1883, Maj. Gen. John Pope, 1883-1886, and Maj. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard, 1886-1888.

Irvin McDowell (1818-1885) served in the Mexican War (Buena Vista) and the Civil War (Bull Run (Manassas) I and II). He was born in Ohio and educated in France. McDowell graduated from West Point in 1838 and accepted a commission as an artillery officer. He became an aide-de-camp to Brig. Gen. John E. Wool in 1845. Major McDowell traveled to Europe in 1856 to study military organization. A brigadier general of Volunteers in 1861, he met with disaster at both battles of Bull Run in 1861 and 1862. The

---

11. Circular, September 14, 1885; Orders 203, October 3, 1885; and Orders 185, September 10, 1886, Post Orders 1885-1886; Circulars, November 11 and 18, 1887, Post Returns, 1887-1888, RG 393, NA.

12. W. Ennis, July 30, 1878, to Department of California, RG 393, Sherman, telegram, March 5, 1880, to McDowell, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA; Kelton, January 16, 1878, to CO, PSF, Microfilm, Bancroft Library, Berkeley; Starr, *Americans and the California Dream*, pp. 132-133.

Army relieved him from further combat during the Civil War and transferred him to San Francisco, where he arrived in 1864 to command the Department of the Pacific. McDowell became a Regular Army major general in 1872 and took command of the Department of the South. Then, from 1876 to 1882 General McDowell led the Military Division of the Pacific, maintaining his residence at Fort Mason and his headquarters at the Presidio. He retired at San Francisco in October 1882 and died in California on May 4, 1885. His remains rest in the San Francisco National Cemetery at the Presidio. The small regulation grave marker misspelled his first name as "Erwin", leading generations to err.

McDowell has been described as "a capable soldier with a sound grasp of strategy and considerable skill at organization;" he was also "gluttonous, aloof, inattentive, and difficult to get along with." His defeat at the first Bull Run was less his fault than that of the green officers and men who executed his plan.

John McAllister Schofield (1831-1906), born in New York State, graduated from West Point in 1853; Schofield had a distinguished reputation in battle during the Civil War – Wilson's Creek 1861; Kennesaw Mountain, Atlanta, and Nashville in 1864; and in North Carolina in 1865. He received a Medal of Honor for his conduct at Wilson's Creek. In 1865 he represented the U.S. State Department in France with the mission of informing Napoleon III of the United States' opposition to Maximilian in Mexico. He served as Secretary of War ad interim during the trying time of President Andrew Johnson's impeachment. From 1870 to 1876 he commanded the Division of the Pacific with his office in San Francisco. Then in 1882 he returned to California, this time with his headquarters at the Presidio.

In 1888 Schofield succeeded General Sheridan as commanding general of the Army. He retired in 1895 and died at St. Augustine, Florida, on March 4, 1906. During the time he commanded the Army he did much to settle old feuds between the office of the Secretary of War and the general staff. In retirement he continued to urge army reform. Described as "a thoroughly professional – indeed brilliant – corps commander in combat, Schofield's management and administrative gifts defined his career. Some considered him the finest peacetime commander in chief in U.S. Army history." Physically, his bald head, mutton-chop whiskers, round body, and short stature created an impressive image.

John Pope (1822-1892) was born in Kentucky He graduated from West Point in 1842 and accepted a commission as a topographic engineer. He served as an army surveyor in Florida, Minnesota, New Mexico, and for a Pacific railroad route. Pope fought in Mexico with Zachary Taylor's army, then in the

Civil War with the rank of major general of Volunteers. His forces were defeated at the Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) and Pope was sent to the Department of the Northwest for the remainder of the war. Following the war, he commanded several departments before going to California in 1883. He commanded both the Department of California and the Division of the Pacific from 1883 to 1886, when he retired. The general died on September 23, 1892, at Sandusky, Ohio. He has been described as "a good administrator whose organizational talents were superior to his tactical skills." Despite an abrasive and arrogant personality, Pope served ably in his western assignments.

Oliver Otis Howard (1830-1909) was born in Maine. He graduated from West Point in 1854 and received a commission in Ordnance. His Civil War experiences were extensive: Bull Run, Fair Oaks, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Chattanooga, and Atlanta. He lost his right arm at Fair Oaks on June 1, 1862, and received the Medal of Honor for that battle many years later. Following the war Howard headed the Freedman's Bureau from 1865 to 1872. During that time he founded Howard University at Washington, D.C. In 1872 President Ulysses S. Grant sent Howard to Arizona territory to negotiate with Cochise, leader of the Chiricahua apaches. Howard, unescorted, dared to enter Cochise's stronghold in the Dragoon Mountains. He successfully negotiated an agreement with the Apache leader thus ending twelve years of Cochise wars. Having gained the nickname "Christian General," Howard returned to active duty as commander of the Department of the Columbia in 1874. He led in the campaign against Idaho's Nez Perce Indians in 1877, wherein the Indians named him "General Day after Tomorrow," for his failure to halt their flight toward Canada. Promoted to major general in 1886, Howard became commanding general of the Division of the Pacific for a two-year stint. He occupied the general's residence at Fort Mason where the McDowells had entertained him and Mrs. Howard a few years earlier. Howard retired in 1894 and died on April 26, 1909, at Burlington, Vermont.<sup>13</sup>

When the decision came down to move the Division headquarters to the Presidio, the post commander,

---

13. Heitman, *Historical Register*; McHenry, *Webster's American Military Biography*; Russell F. Weigley, "Military Thought of Schofield," *Military Affairs*, 23: 77-84; Robert M. Utley, *Frontier Regulars, The United States Army and the Indian, 1866-1891* (New York: Macmillan, 1973), pp. 194 and 219-220; L.D. Ingersoll, *A History of the War Department of the United States* (Washington: Francis B. Mohean, 1879), pp. 543-545; Howard, *Autobiography*, p. 546; Oliver O. Howard, *My Life and Experiences among Our Hostile Indians* (Hartford, 1907), p. xv (foreword by Robert M. Utley); Richard N. Ellis, *General Pope and U.S. Indian Policy* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1970); Trevor N. Dupuy, Curt Johnson, and David L. Bongard, *The Harper Encyclopedia of Military Biography* (New York: Harper Collins, 1992); all the above direct quotations are from Dupuy.

William H. French, colonel of the 4th Artillery Regiment, moved his headquarters to Angel Island. He returned to the Presidio briefly in the spring of 1880. At that time he announced that after forty-three years of active service, "I hereby relinquish command of this regiment." No doubt, a full dress parade and review were held in his honor.<sup>14</sup>

Col. Emory Upton, one of the nineteenth century's most brilliant soldiers, succeeded French as commander of the 4th Artillery and of the Presidio. The Presidio had carried Upton on the post returns for some time, showing him to have been on detached service at the Artillery's think tank at Fort Monroe, Virginia. Based on his infantry experiences in the Civil War, Upton published *New System of Infantry Tactics* in 1867, which brought him international attention. General Sherman appointed him commandant of cadets and instructor of tactics at the U.S. Military Academy, then to a three-man commission to examine military organization in Europe and Asia. Upton published *The Armies of Europe and Asia* in 1878. In it he argued for the reform of the U.S. Army in that it be a strictly professional body with volunteers filling out a skeletal organization under regular officers in time of war, instead of forming a separate army as had been done in the Civil War.<sup>15</sup>

As early as the spring of 1880, Upton began to develop violent headaches and sought medical assistance. From time to time his thoughts became confused. The prospects of transferring to the West Coast left him uneasy because he did not want to lose his doctor, who later conjectured that the colonel suffered from a brain tumor. But orders were orders.

Soon after his arrival at the Presidio, Widower Upton wrote a letter describing his new surroundings, "I shall furnish one room with a carpet for parlor, and sleep in the one in rear, off which is a bath." Under ordinary circumstances the regimental colonel could expect to reside in the quarters set aside for the post commander, in this case quarters 12 at the north end of the line (today's 5). But these were not ordinary times at the Presidio. The Division staff officers had taken over much of officers' row, including the

---

14. *Daily Alta California*, May 23, 1880; Post Returns, PSF, 1877-1880. Colonel French had a long distinguished military career. Graduating from West Point in 1837, he entered the Artillery. He fought in both the Mexican and Civil wars. French became a major general of Volunteers during the latter and participated in the battles of Fair Oaks, Antietam, and Chancellorsville. He died in May 1881, just one year after retirement. Heitman, *Historical Register*.

15. Earlier, in April 1874, the Presidio's Post Council of Administration met to consider the propriety of spending funds to acquire twenty copies of Upton's *Tactics*. Orders 50, April 10, 1874, Special Orders, 1871-1874, PSF, RG 393, NA.

remodeled BOQ. Upton's description of two rooms suggests, at least, that he occupied a set of officer's quarters in the BOQ. He soon learned that while he commanded a regiment his duties as post commander were severely limited. General McDowell in his nearby office supervised every post expense over \$5.00. He also directed all new construction, even selecting paint colors.<sup>16</sup>

Nevertheless, Upton found the Presidio to be a delightful place:

This evening General Tannatt and myself took a four-mile walk. The road lies wholly in the Reservation and winds around the hills, one moment commanding a view of the bay, and the next looking off on the Grand Pacific. At the Golden Gate we came upon Fort Point, a brick castle with four tiers of guns. The hill back of it is twice its height, and is connected with it by a bridge which abuts against the parapet. So we descended into the fort as they entered houses in the time of the Saviour, by going through the roof.<sup>17</sup>

Because of the short time Upton remained at the Presidio, little correspondence has been found bearing his signature. In one letter, dated January 3, 1881, he requested two new clocks for headquarters. Vandals had tampered with the existing clocks and the bugle calls were not on schedule – most upsetting to an army post.<sup>18</sup>

Capt. Henry C. Hasbrouck, 4th Artillery, stationed at the Presidio at this time also had been a classmate of Upton's at West Point. From his pen came a description of the colonel's last days. Sometime in February Upton complained to Hasbrouck that he was having great difficulty revising his book on infantry tactics. When Hasbrouck asked Upton early in March about his health, the colonel replied that the pain in his head was increasing and he doubted he would ever be cured. On Sunday morning, March 13, Hasbrouck again visited Upton who broke down, "he placed his hands to his head, and his eyes suffused with tears, and he said he was ruined – he spoke of the failure of his revision." Hasbrouck urged Upton to take a vacation to no avail. That Sunday evening Upton said that he had lost his will and that his officers no longer respected him.

---

16. Stephen E. Ambrose, *Upton and the Army* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1964), pp. 143-146; Peter S. Michie, *The Life and Letters of Emory Upton, Colonel of the Fourth Regiment of Artillery, and Brevet Major - General, U.S. Army* (New York: D. Appleton, 1885), p. 479.

17. Michie, *Upton*, p. 480. Thomas R. Tannatt had attended West Point at the same time as Upton. He had long been out of the Army.

18. Upton, January 3, 1881, to Division of the Pacific, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA.

Monday, March 14, "This morning about 8 a.m. his servant ran over to my house with the report that the General had shot himself. I ran to his room and found him lying on his bed with a pistol in his right hand." On reporting the death the post adjutant wrote, "I am satisfied that his reason was unseated at the time he committed the fatal act." Before he shot himself, Col. Emory Upton wrote out his resignation from the U.S. Army.

Hasbrouck wrote the colonel's sister that the remains had been embalmed and a guard of honor had been posted. Many flowers had arrived from the "ladies of the Army" and from friends in San Francisco. Later, the body was sent to Auburn, New York.<sup>19</sup>

Upton's influence on army reform continued long after his death. He had left an unfinished manuscript, "The Military Policy of the United States from 1775." It called for the United States to adopt a professional, expansible army, as well as the establishment of military schools and a general staff corps, these last to be based on successful German models. The manuscript circulated among army officers through the years until Elihu Root became Secretary of War in 1899. Root enthusiastically read the manuscript. While he could not agree with all of it he accepted such proposals as the three-battalion regiment, abolition of the rigid seniority system of promotion, and establishment of a general staff. Root had Upton's work published in 1904, writing an appreciative introduction for it. Professor Russell Weigley has written of *Military Policy*, "no comparable American military history existed or was to exist for decades, and as history his book contained a wealth of information. Thus for many years . . . [it was] the standard work in the field."<sup>20</sup>

The Presidio had better days. *The Army and Navy Journal* published a "Programme of Entertainment at Fort Point" in the summer of 1880. The day-long affair began with target practice with the big 15-inch coastal guns. Keeping up the noise the soldiers then turned to the mortar and siege batteries. Lunch consisted of a basket picnic at "Camp McDowell", a temporary collection of tents. An onlooker would

---

19. H.C. Hasbrouck, March 15 and 16, 1881, to Miss Upton; Ambrose, *Upton and the Army*, pp. 147-149; A.B. Dyer, Post Adjutant, March 15, 1881, to Department of the Pacific, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA. Col. William F. Strobridge, San Francisco, kindly provided copies of Hasbrouck's two letters. Upton's *The Armies of Asia and Europe* was published posthumously in 1904. Secretary of War Elihu Root had consulted the manuscript in his 1903 effort to reorganize the Army.

20. Weigley, *History of U.S. Army*, pp. 275-281.

probably have noticed that the officers, their families, and friends enjoyed this event. The troops appeared again in the early afternoon in a review and dress parade. The brass wiled away the rest of the afternoon at an informal "hop" within the old fort.<sup>21</sup>

In contrast to isolated frontier posts, Presidio officers and their ladies enjoyed an elegant social life when the duties of the day allowed, both on post and in the city. Dances, theater, dinners, receptions for visiting dignitaries, engagements, and weddings marked the calendar. Newspapers duly recorded these events, especially when the socially prominent were involved whether within the Army or without. Capt. Stephen Jocelyn, on Christmas leave in 1880, visited San Francisco and the Presidio. At the post he escorted the surgeon's daughter, "handsome Miss Minnie in a French toilet [te]," to a party. Later she married another officer, the wedding taking place in the Presidio chapel. Joselyn must have saved the newspaper account:

The ceiling and sides of the chapel were completely hidden from view, being covered with bright, new American flags, most artistically arranged. The pillars supporting the roof were twined with garlands of cypress and laurel leaves while potted plants were arranged in a circle around the central column. At the rear was the chancel, made brilliant with glistening candelabra. . . . Beautiful baskets filled with the choicest of flowers were placed here and there. . . . The rear of the chancel was entirely banked with emerald-hued foliage, studded with calla lilies. . . . Rich rugs adorned the floor, and a stretch of canvas reached from the entrance to the altar.

Capt. and Mrs. W. A. Thompson departed for his station, Fort Bowie, Arizona.<sup>22</sup>

The post treasurer managed the library, which in addition to books contained a variety of subscriptions for its patrons who came from all parts of the United States:

*United Service Magazine*  
*Harpers Weekly*  
*New York Ledger Weekly*  
*Washington Sunday Herald*

*Detroit Free Press*  
*Scientific American*

*Puck*  
*Irish World*  
*The Century*  
*American Builder*  
(New York)  
*The Workshop*  
*Army and Navy Register*

---

21. *The Fort Point Salvo*, 2 (September 1973, quoting from the *Army and Navy Journal*, July 31, 1880.

22. Jocelyn, *Mostly Alkali*, p. 295. Newspaper not identified.

*New York Herald* (daily)  
*San Francisco Examiner*  
*San Francisco Chronicle*  
*Atlantic Monthly*  
and *Nachrichten aus Deutschland und der Schweiz*<sup>23</sup>

*London Illustrated News*  
*New York Graphic*  
*Army and Navy Journal*  
*Saint Louis Globe Democrat*

In 1882 the *Daily Alta California* announced that the splendid 4th Artillery Band of twenty-four pieces would present a public concert at the Presidio's "Seaside Gardens." Music by Strauss and many others would be played. During the intermissions Punch and Judy performances would take the stage. Admission, 10¢.<sup>24</sup>

The kinds of problems Upton had faced in his relations with McDowell cropped up again in 1882 among their successors. It began when post trader Beretta complained that his monopoly on the reservation was being violated by unauthorized salespersons coming on the premises. The new post commander, Lt. Col. George P. Andrews, 4th Artillery, responded at length, thus shedding more light on the problems arising when Division officers worked and lived on the reserve. Andrews explained that the "Post of Presidio" and the "Presidio Reservation" were not then one and the same. He as post commander had no authority over the Division staff quarters and offices, the areas used by the Depot Quartermaster, nor the Fort Point area (now called Fort Winfield Scott). All those sites came under other jurisdictions and the commanding general could establish regulations as he saw fit regarding public access.<sup>25</sup>

Most officer families retained servants in that era. The records give only a glimpse of these people who often came from San Francisco's Chinese community. Post Surg. John Brooke reported in 1886 that two soldiers had attacked and beaten his Chinese servant on the reservation. Another officer wrote that the small house at the rear of his quarters, occupied by his Chinese servant, badly needed repairs to make it fit for occupation. On another occasion the adjutant notified a lieutenant's family that if their "nurse-girl" continued to resist a vaccination, she would be banished from the reservation.<sup>26</sup>

---

23. F. Fuger, January 6, 1881, Post Endorsements, 1880-1881; Andrews, April 18, 1882, and Piper, May 26, 1886, to QMG, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA.

24. *Daily Alta California*, November 12, 1882.

25. Post Adjutant, March 5, 1883, Post Endorsements 1882-1884, RG 393, NA.

26. Brooke, May 7, 1886, Register of Letters Received 1885-1886; Sanford, December 26, 1883, to Department of California, Post Endorsements 1882-1884; Harris, December 7, 1887, to Carrington, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA.

Rarely, too, did references to the post's children appear. When Colonel Andrews had a census taken in 1883, he learned that the post families had thirty-four children over five years of age. Those of school age attended a city school a block from the main gate. These parents considered it to be an excellent school and much preferred over a post school. In 1886 the Presidio hosted Miss Sarah B. Cooper and her 600 kindergartners at a picnic, which must have resulted in pleasant excitement as well as confusion for all.<sup>27</sup>

Distinguished citizens visited the Bay Area during this decade including former President and Mrs. Ulysses Grant in 1879 and President and Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes in 1880. General McDowell held grand receptions for both parties at his Fort Mason residence, but the Presidio's records remained silent concerning the visits. It is likely that both parties received 21-gun salutes from Fort Point's guns as their steamers passed by. The Grants left San Francisco on board steamer *St. Paul*, while the Hayes party toured the bay on army steamer *McPherson*, landing at Alcatraz and Angel islands.<sup>28</sup>

When General Grant died a few years later, the Presidio garrison observed the solemn event. Post Orders directed the day's ceremonies. The troops paraded and heard the proclamation announcing the death. All labor ceased for the remainder of the day. At dawn the artillery fired thirteen guns and afterward a single gun fired every half hour from sunrise to sunset. At the close of day there came a national salute of thirty-eight guns. Two years later the death of former President Chester A. Arthur was observed with similar ceremonies. Officers received orders to wear crepe on their left arms and on their swords for six months.<sup>29</sup>

Another distinguished visitor to San Francisco who may not have visited the Presidio, His Imperial Highness Prince Komatsu of Japan, did have the services of a Presidio officer, Lt. Gilbert P. Cotton, 1st Artillery, who became an aide-de-camp during the prince's visit. In November 1887 the Division commander, Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard, unexpectedly brought a visiting foreign admiral (otherwise

---

27. Andrews, September 23, 1883 to Department of California; Hasbrouck, December 1, 1878, to War Department; Cooper, April 22, 1886, Register of Letters Received 1885-1886, PSF, RG 393, NA.

28. *Daily Alta California*, September 12, 1880; Erwin Thompson, "U.S. Army Headquarters, California, 1846-1946," MS.

29. Orders 158, August 7, 1885, Post Orders 1885-1886; Orders 247, November 21, 1886, Post Orders 1886-1887, PSF, RG 393, NA.

unidentified) out to the reservation. An aide had to hurry ahead to arrange for the firing of an admiral's salute.<sup>30</sup>

The Division of the Pacific's last year at the Presidio, 1887, witnessed times of gaiety and times of sorrow among the officers of the post. In January, "The officers and ladies at the Presidio gave a delightful hop last Tuesday evening, in the hop room at the Post, which was handsomely decorated in honor of the occasion. . . . Dancing was enjoyed until midnight, to the excellent music provided by the First Artillery Band, and light refreshments were served during the evening."<sup>31</sup> A few months later the remains of the late Col. George Pearce Andrews, Retired, were laid to rest in the national cemetery. Colonel Andrews had served at the Presidio years before as a young artillery officer. Later, on the death of Colonel Upton in 1881, Andrews had taken command of the garrison and remained in charge until his retirement in San Francisco in 1885. On July 3, the private funeral services were held in the Andrews residence, followed by the interment. All officers and enlisted men were invited to attend at the cemetery.<sup>32</sup>

#### **D. The Animals**

Like most communities the Presidio housed a variety of animals including horses, mules, cattle, dogs, and chickens. Of these, horses received the most attention, if only because they were government property. Besides privately-owned horses, about which little was said, there were the animals belonging to the light artillery and occasional cavalry unit. In 1880 the officer in charge of the cavalry detachment then present requested permission to graze the horses on the reservation. The post commander regretfully informed him that he could not grant such authority as he had none to give. The Division now controlled that matter. On a later occasion, the poor horses did not have enough to eat. The appropriation for forage also purchased public stores. The laundresses used that appropriation for food purchases, thus short-changing the animals. The *Alta California* reported that the women would have to use their own funds in the future in order "to keep alive the animals which the despicable parsimony of Congress has cut far

---

30. AG, Division of Pacific, October 22, 1886, to CO, PSF, Letters Received 1886-1887; Greble, Fort Mason, November 10, 1887, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received 1887-1888, PSF, RG 393, NA.

31. *Daily Alta California*, January 16, 1887.

32. Circular, July 3, 1887, Post Orders 1886-1887, PSF, RG 393, NA.

short of the proper allowance."<sup>33</sup>

The post quartermaster took a census of the horses in 1885 finding that during the past year the Presidio had received forty-five new horses, transferred eighteen, and eleven had died. The number on hand came to 168. As for mules, two new ones brought the total to five. Always heartbreaking, an injury sometimes resulted in death. That happened when one horse kicked another, breaking its leg. A board of officers recommended that the injured animal be killed without delay. Horses hurt soldiers too. That occurred when cavalry Sgt. Edward King's horse fell on him. King was totally disabled and discharged with a certificate of disability. In 1885 the quartermaster sought authority to hire a painter to put the names of the horses and their riders over the stalls of Troop K, 2d Cavalry. General Pope refused the request, saying that quartermaster employees could do this when they had nothing better to do.<sup>34</sup>

Cattle on the reservation continued to generate paperwork. The hospital's cow still contributed milk for the patients' benefit. In 1885 Private Carter, 1st Artillery, submitted a letter to the adjutant to keep his cow on the reserve. Private McAuliffe's company commander came to his aid when he received an order to get rid of four heifers. The captain wrote that McAuliffe was old and crippled. He had only eleven months to go before his discharge and he depended on the cattle to support him when a civilian. At the same time that McAuliffe's livelihood was threatened the War Department granted a civilian, Cornelius Keating, permission to establish a dairy on the Presidio reservation.<sup>35</sup>

Rare is the army that has no dogs. The Presidio upheld the tradition. Periodically the adjutant posted fresh orders regulating their behavior. Typically, orders published in 1887 stated that dogs would not be allowed unless they had licenses issued by headquarters. Further, dogs had to be kept off the parade ground while troops paraded. Chickens found themselves confined even more, "they must be kept within the limits of the fenced in portion of the grounds connected with the quarters of the parties owning

---

33. French, March 13, 1880, to Division of Pacific, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA; *Daily Alta California*, November 22, 1884.

34. Post quartermaster, August 25, 1885; Department of California, November 20, 1885, both in Register of Letters Received, 185-1886; Post adjutant, November 20, 1887, to Post surgeon, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA.

35. Carter, July 23, 1885; CO, Battery K, 1st Artillery, March 16, 1888; Department of California, May 24, 1887, all in Register of Letters Received 1885-1886 and 1887-1888, PSF, RG 393, NA.

them."<sup>36</sup>

## **E. Military Affairs**

When the Division of the Pacific first arrived on the Presidio reservation, post strength had been reduced to two batteries of artillery. As the months slipped by this strength figure gradually increased until at the end of the Division's sojourn, 1887, the garrison totalled thirty officers and 400 men, including artillery, infantry, and cavalry. The separate garrison over at Fort Point remained fairly steady throughout the period having around eight officers and less than 100 enlisted men.<sup>37</sup>

The Indian wars of the 1880s provided the Presidio troops with little excitement. Other than two minor forays into Arizona Territory during the Apache campaigns, wherein the Presidio soldiers guarded supply trains and provided other support activities, the garrison now trained in harbor defense and in defensive tactics. The *Alta California* complained in 1884 that the filling in of the big ravine west of the main post had thoroughly disrupted the drills of the light artillery and the cavalry, "instead of the gallop of a battery, or a troop or battalion of cavalry, from one end of the [drill area] to the other . . . we have now the quiet execution of movements that require less room." The reporter observed, "The Light Battery is drilling again, and seems in its usual efficient condition. The two troops of the Second Cavalry are receiving a good deal of elementary drill, both mounted and dismounted."<sup>38</sup>

In 1887 the post commander, Lt. Col. Alexander Piper, 1st Artillery, issued detailed orders setting forth training exercises for the month of May. The Light (i.e., mounted) Battery K, 1st Artillery, practiced the School of the Battery on three days of the week and dismounted drill on the other two. The remainder of the garrison practiced with rifles and carbines at known distances on the range, each outfit, for three mornings a week. Otherwise, Maj. Frank Bennet directed the training of the two cavalry troops. The dismounted artillery batteries practiced with 8-inch and 10-inch mortars, and gun drills with 3-inch pieces. Junior artillery officers received instructions on the operation of the plane table. That fall the three

---

36. Orders 238, October 8, and Orders 249, October 19, 1887, Post Orders 1887-1888, PSF, RG 393, NA.

37. Post Returns, PSF and Fort Point, 1878-1887.

38. *Daily Alta California*, August 3, 1884.

foot batteries marched to Fort Point and practiced on the 15-inch guns (shells fitted with bursting charges and with time fuses, powder charges limited to fifty pounds). Again, junior officers learned about plane tables and operations at plotting stations.<sup>39</sup>

The Department of California Rifle Team created intense competition among the better marksmen. Open to all ranks, the annual competition for a place on the team took place at the Presidio. Capt. Stephen P. Jocelyn, stationed at Fort Townsend in Washington Territory, was considered the best shot in the U.S. Army. In 1883 he arrived at the Presidio where he spent nearly a month shooting and supervising rifle practice in the mornings. The afternoons belonged to him and he visited San Francisco in his role as a director of the First National Bank of Vancouver, Washington, since most of its business took place in the city. Because the Presidio lacked quarters for visiting officers, Jocelyn stayed at the Occidental Hotel, "practically an army installation." In 1887 the Presidio hosted contestants for the team from no fewer than seventeen installations in the Department.<sup>40</sup>

Light Battery K, 1st Artillery, undertook a march in the spring of 1884 that, in addition to honing its military skills, ended at "Camp Stoneman" in magnificent Yosemite Valley. The soldiers could not have known that they were the innocent forerunners of army troops who would manage and protect the future national park.<sup>41</sup>

When he commanded the post, Col. George Andrews, irked at a Department inquiry into the Presidio's two-horse spring wagon being used for private purposes, dashed off a stinging response. He understood that he regulated the use of the wagon and it was his responsibility to decide to what uses it was put. There was no need for others to concern themselves as to the propriety of those uses. For the record, however, the wagon carried officers, officials of other nations, U.S. Senators, school children, sick soldiers, drunken soldiers, visitors, chaplains, mourners, coffins, prisoners, guards, insane persons, messengers, and in any other way he deemed proper.<sup>42</sup>

---

39. Orders 102, April 28, 1887; Circular, September 7, 1887, Post Orders, 1886-1887, PSF, RG 393, NA.

40. Joselyn, *Mostly Alkali*, p. 298; Orders 215, September 14, 1887, Post Orders 1886-1887, PSF, RG 393, NA.

41. CO, Light Battery K, May 28, 1884, to Department of California, Post Endorsements 1884-1885, PSF, RG 393, NA.

42. Andrews, November 19, 1884, to Inspector General, Department of California,

As it had so many times in the past, the Presidio participated in the civilian communities' activities when appropriate. In 1886 several of the Bay Area's army posts contributed troops for a parade in San Francisco sponsored by the Grand Army of the Republic. Col. William (Pecos Bill) Shafter from Angel Island led the army units that included five companies from the Presidio. On May 30, 1887, Presidio troops marched to the national cemetery. Following prayers by Chaplain Kendig, the soldiers decorated the graves. That fall the Presidio allowed the 1st Artillery Band to play at the Palace Hotel, then the largest hotel in the United States. Also, some enlisted men had permission to be at the hotel, in uniform, in the evenings. The correspondence did not disclose the purpose of their presence.<sup>43</sup>

#### **F. New Buildings and Old, 1878-1884**

The tug-of-war between the post commander and the Division staff over control of the reservation and its buildings continued on into the 1880s. The Division quartermaster, Lt. Col. Samuel Holabird, had asked Washington that the quarters he occupied (No. 6 then, 11 today) be permanently assigned to him and successive quartermasters. Washington responded, "The Comdg General Division of the Pacific may set aside one or more sets of quarters for his Division Staff, subject to assignment by the Commanding Officer of the Post." That did not settle the matter. Confusion and argument followed when dividing appropriations for repairs and like matters. The War Department then established two separate installations – a headquarters post and a military post, "then the two, though adjoining, will be, in regulation and law, as distinct as if they were on different sides of the Golden Gate." This decision deprived the post commander of authority over most of the reservation for the decade of the 1880s. Maj. L.L. Livingston, 4th Artillery, who commanded the post briefly in 1880, noted, "There are about 38 other buildings at the post, great and small, occupied and controlled exclusively by the Headquarters, Military Division of the Pacific and the Department of California."<sup>44</sup>

Of all the adobe buildings inherited from the Mexican period, the Presidio had but three now, all at the

(..continued)

Post Endorsements 1884-1885, PSF, RG 393, NA.

43. Orders 151, August 2, 1886, and Circular, May 28, 1887, Post Orders 1886-1887; Harris, November 26, 1887, to Frederick Innes, Palace Hotel, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA.

44. OQMG, May 15, 1880, to Division of the Pacific; Livingston, July 10, 1880, Post Endorsements 1880-1881, PSF, RG 393, NA.

southwest corner of the parade ground: the long adobe on the south end and measuring 29 feet by 160 feet with several additions on the south side, and two officers' quarters that had been crated out of the long adobe on the west side of the parade. One of these had been converted into a duplex, 28 feet by 90 feet; the other, a single set 20 feet by 23 feet.

The south adobe had served as officers' quarters in the early American days then, in the 1870s, as quarters for laundresses and married enlisted men. More recently the Army had remodeled it into a substantial post headquarters building. Three halls divided the interior into the commanding officer and the adjutant's offices at the east end, an imposing court martial room in the center, and a witness room and a library at the west end. A reporter from the *Alta California* inspected the building in 1885, just before it underwent further remodeling, "The largest and most important [adobe] building contains a long hall which is called the Court-martial room, and with its finish of solid wood resembles an old feudal hall." He thought that the redwood ceiling timbers had been inherited from the Spanish period. More likely, they dated from the early American period when the Army installed a sawmill in Marin County:

The redwood timbers . . . were found to be in a state of excellent preservation, the rich natural tone of the wood having deepened and improved with age. The outside was planed off and a high polish given to the wood, and they were placed as rafters across the ceiling. The walls of the building are between three and four feet in thickness, and quite put to shame many of the more flimsy structures of the day.<sup>45</sup>

Although various building reports referred to the adobes as dilapidated, those who occupied them thought otherwise. One officer described his adobe residence as having electric bells,<sup>46</sup> large closets, and spacious rooms, "It was considered the best set at the post, embowered as it was in vines and flowers to the roof." This stood in contrast to the cottage on officers' row that a major on the Division staff called home, "all the quarters the same as mine were put up hurriedly in 1862, or thereabouts, for temporary use. . . . The walls consist of two thicknesses of plank *not* tongued and grooved. The planks have been painted but at the seams the paint has cracked and lets the wind in quite freely . . . we must have huge fires the year round. [In the past six months] there has been consumed in my quarters eleven tons of coal."<sup>47</sup>

---

45. *Daily Alta California*, August 16, 1885.

46. All the officers' quarters and post headquarters had an electric bell system, predecessor of the telephone, to alert officers that it was time for assembly, formations, and the like.

47. M.R. Morgan, May 1, 1866, to Division of Pacific, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA; William Henry Bisbee, *Through Four American Wars, The Impressions and Experiences of*

A serious problem had become most evident at the Corral by 1880. Ground water had collected and stagnated under the building, raising such an obnoxious odor throughout the ground floor that windows had to be kept open day and night. Associated with the odor or not, an estimate of \$575 appeared for repairing the Corral's mess room, and by 1883 the entire building had been raised up from the ground.<sup>48</sup>

In 1883 the arrival and departure of troop units and their officers resulted once again in an exercise that army wives dreaded – the choosing of quarters according to rank. Battery L, 1st Artillery, departed; and Battery H, 1st Artillery, and Troop I, 1st Cavalry, arrived. The new officers had the prerogative of "bumping" any officers junior in rank and choosing any of their quarters that suited them. The bumped officers could do the same to their juniors. Although there were some restrictions to this practice, it was a time of dread as officers scrutinized the dates of rank. The situation in October 1883:

Quarters	Present Occupant	Person Choosing
3 (now 14)	Major Randol	Captain Sanger
4 (now 13)	Captain McCrea	Captain McCrea
6 (now 11)	Major Weeks	Major Sanford
13 (now 4)	Captain Harris	Captain Harris
16 (adobe)	Captain Sanger	Captain Haskin
Goat Island Cottage*	vacant	Lieutenant Russell
14 Adjutant's Office**	vacant	Lieutenant Davis <sup>49</sup>

By late 1883 the number of officers assigned to the post alone had climbed to twenty. The shortage of quarters had become crucial. Maj. Gen. John Pope set forth four possible solutions: 1. Use the unoccupied quarters at Fort Point. 2. Rent quarters in San Francisco. 3. Reduce the space assigned to officers. 4. Reduce the size of the garrison. While Fort Point was not reactivated as a separate post,

(..continued)

*Brigadier General William Henry Bisbee* (Boston: Meador, 1931), p. 234.

48. U.S. Army, *Outline Descriptions of Military Posts, 1879*, pp. 88 and 90; Post Quartermaster, December 31, 1880, Post Endorsements 1880-1881; Andrews, October 10, 1883, and Post Quartermaster, June 15, 1884, Post Endorsements, 1882-1885, RG 393, NA.

49. Andrews, October 9, 1883, to Department of California, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA. \*One of two sets of officers' quarters recently moved to the Presidio from Yerba Buena Island, location unknown but probably on south end of parade. \*\*Old Adjutant's Office, moved from west side of parade to the south side near the chapel and converted to officer's quarters. Captain Sanger did not "bump" Major Randol. Sanger acquired the quarters because Randol left for Fort Winfield Scott on detached service.

Battery C, 1st Artillery, moved there.<sup>50</sup>

Another structure of interest at this time concerned a separate building, a duplex, for the families of two noncommissioned officers, the first notice of separate housing for this important group – other than married personnel living in former laundresses' quarters. This humble set of quarters (two rooms in each half) stood to the south of laundresses' row and apart from it.<sup>51</sup>

General Pope, dissatisfied with the conditions found at the Presidio for his offices and the lack of suitable quarters for his staff officers, prepared a lengthy letter to the War Department outlining his proposals for the Presidio and for a permanent headquarters for the Division of the Pacific. He noted that the Army then maintained garrisons at the Presidio, Fort Point, Angel Island, Alcatraz island, Fort Mason, and Benicia Barracks. Each of these required administrative machinery nearly as large as would be needed at one concentrated location. Other than a prison guard on Alcatraz, he recommended the gradual transfer of the garrisons (including their buildings) from the posts to the Presidio reservation where they would become a twelve-company post. The result would be economical as well as an increase in efficiency and discipline. Also, the headquarters of the Army on the Pacific Coast should have permanent buildings for its offices and quarters. The present offices at the Presidio (in the Civil War barracks) were insufficient in both proportions and character and not suited for officers of high rank. Also the Division buildings and the post structures were mixed up and in the middle of troop activities.

Pope had his staff prepare elaborate plans for a headquarters building and for quarters for both field grade and company grade officers' quarters. Accompanying the drawings, pages of materials required for the construction listed everything from lumber, to nails, to bathtubs, to stained glass, and on and on. Cost estimates:

One building for military headquarters	\$65,520
9 sets of field officers' quarters	117,301
4 sets of captains' quarters	48,049
Total	\$230,870

---

50. Kelton, December 5, 1883, to CO, PSF; Andrews, December 6, 1883, to Department of California, Post Endorsements, 1882-1884, PSF, RG 393, NA.

51. Baily, January 11, 1879, to Post Adjutant, PSF, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA; Hasbrouck, September 6, 1879, to War Department; Andrews, June 2, 1882, to Department of California, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA.

The field officers' quarters, he said, were needed for the assistant adjutant general, assistant inspector general, judge advocate, chief quartermaster, chief commissary of subsistence, medical director, chief paymaster, engineer officer, and ordnance officer. The captains' quarters would house the assistant quartermaster and three aides-de-camp.

Lt. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan, then commanding the U.S. Army, agreed to increasing the Presidio's strength and he recommended asking Congress for funds to build the headquarters and the quarters, but he did not approve the abandonment of Angel, Alcatraz, and Yerba Buena islands, "the inner line of defense," nor of Benicia Barracks, the guardian of the arsenal. Secretary of War Robert Lincoln approved Sheridan's estimates and President Chester Arthur sent them to the Congress. Division Quartermaster C.F. Humphrey had drawings prepared depicting an elaborate, three-story wood frame headquarters building featuring nine large towers and Second Empire architecture. All was for naught. Congress did not approve. But the concept lived on; in time it would rise again.<sup>52</sup>

When the time came in 1884 to prepare the annual report on the Presidio buildings, the post quartermaster may have helped to gather the data, but Capt. Charles F. Humphrey, the depot quartermaster signed the report. It turned out to be a massive document and it incorporated a building numbering system that lasted for many years. The report gave the first description of the new post headquarters in the ancient adobe and it described the two barracks that had been converted to two stories.

#### **G. The Humphrey Report, 1884**

The first number before each structure was the number that Captain Humphrey assigned. The following number in brackets was the Army's number as assigned in 1994, where appropriate. The first thirteen buildings were the Civil War quarters on the east side of the parade.

##### **1. (16) Officer's quarters, 1½ story, wood frame, 31 feet by 52 feet**

First floor: parlor, sitting room, dining room, bedroom, hall, pantry.

---

52. U.S. Senate, Ex. Doc. 130, 48th Congress, 1st sess., March 1884.

Attic: four rooms

Ell: 1½ story, 12 feet by 31 feet

First floor: kitchen, washroom, and buttry

Attic: two rooms, 14 feet by 15 feet and 10 feet by 12 feet

Addition: 1 story, 9 feet by 11 feet – bathroom and water closet

Outbuilding: 10 feet by 16 feet – wood and coal shed

2. (15) Officer's quarters, identical to 1, except

Ell: 1 story, 12 feet by 31 feet

3. (14) Officer's quarters, identical to 1, except

Ell: 1 story, 8½ feet by 16 feet

4. (13) Officer's quarters, identical to 3

5. (12) Officer's quarters, identical to 1, except

Ell: 1½ story, 16 feet by 24 feet

Attic: 14 feet by 15 feet

Additional servant's room, 10 feet by 12 feet

6. (11) Officer's quarters, residence of Division quartermaster, identical to 1, except

Ell: 1½ story, 16 feet by 28 feet

First floor: kitchen, washroom, buttry

Addition to first floor of ell: two servants' rooms 10 feet by 12 feet (each?)

7. (10) Officer's quarters (earliest notice of bay windows), identical to 1, except

Addition: 1 story, 12 feet by 23 feet, bathroom, water closet, bedroom

8. (9) Officer's quarters, identical to 1, except

Ell: 1½ story, 16 feet by 24 feet

Attic: 1 room, 14 feet by 15 feet

9. (8) Officer's quarters, identical to 1, except

Ell: 1½ story, 16 feet by 24 feet

First floor: kitchen 14 feet by 15 feet, washroom, buttery

Attic: 1 room, 14 feet by 15 feet

Addition to ell: servant's room, 10 feet by 12 feet

10. (7) Officer's quarters (sitting room had a bay window), identical to 1, except

Ell: 1½ story, 16 feet by 24 feet

Addition to ell: servant's room, 10 feet by 13 feet

11. (6) Officer's quarters, identical to 1, except

Ell: only 1 room in attic, 14 feet by 15 feet

12. (5) Officer's quarters, identical to 1, except

Ell: 1½ story, 16 feet by 24 feet

Attic not listed

Addition to house: conservatory, 6 feet by 26 feet

13. (4) Officer's quarters, 1½ story, wood frame, 33 feet by 42 feet.

First floor: 4 rooms

Attic: 3 rooms

Ell: 1 story, 23 feet by 31 feet, kitchen, bathroom, washroom, pantry

Outbuilding: 10 feet by 16 feet, wood and coal shed

14. Officer's quarters (former schoolhouse) on south end of the parade ground adjacent to the adobe post headquarters, 1 story, 30½ feet by 36½ feet.

Four rooms: parlor, sitting room, dining room, bedroom, hall

Ell: 16 feet by 41½ feet, kitchen, pantry, 2 servants' rooms

Addition: 9 feet by 10 feet, bathroom and water closet

Covered porch on front of building and side of ell, 10 feet by 34 feet. Covered porch on

kitchen, 4 feet by 30 feet.

Outbuilding: 8 feet by 12 feet, wood and coal shed

15. Officer's quarters, on west side of parade and near the adobe post headquarters, wood frame, 1½ story, 21 feet by 42 feet

Attic: 2 rooms (first floor not described)

Wing, 1½ story, 19 feet by 21 feet

First floor: dining room, 13 feet by 18 feet

Attic: 1 bedroom, bathroom

Addition to wing: 21 feet by 27 feet, kitchen, pantry, washroom, servant's room

Outbuilding: 10 feet by 18½ feet, wood and coal shed

16. Officers' quarters, duplex, adobe, 1½ story, 43½ feet by 86½ feet, veranda on front 7 feet wide. Each set:

First floor: parlor dining room, bedroom, hall (kitchen?)

Attic: 4 bedrooms, trunk room

Ell: 1 story, adobe, pantry, laundry, bathroom, hall

Addition: 4 feet by 7 feet, water closet

Four dormer windows on front of attic story.

17. (42) Bachelor officers' quarters, "the Corral," remodeled into family quarters, wood frame, 3 story, 32 feet by 114 feet, wing 30 feet by 40 feet. (Today's 42 is a replacement), 39 rooms divided into 7 sets of quarters complete with bathrooms and water closets.

4 outbuildings, 9 feet by 20 feet, wood and coal sheds, servants' closets

(The corral burned in 1899 and in 1904 today's Pershing Hall, 42, replaced it.)

18. (45) Post chapel, 1 story, wood frame, 24 feet by 45 feet

Chancel, 9 feet by 11 feet

Robing room, 5 feet by 8 feet

Entry way, 5 feet by 8 feet

Auditorium, 24 feet by 35 feet

17 pews seating 102 persons

Front vestibule, 4½ feet by 8 feet

19. Post schoolhouse (second, built ca. 1879) adjacent to chapel

Two additions, 6 feet by 18½ feet each, hallways and water closets

20. (50) Post headquarters, 1 story, adobe, 23 feet by 160 feet

Three halls, 6 feet by 16 feet each

Post commander's office, 12½ feet by 16 feet

Post adjutant's office, 13 feet by 16 feet

Court martial room, 16 feet by 43 feet

Witness room, 12 feet by 43 feet

Library, 16 feet by 30½ feet

Front and rear covered porches 5 feet wide

Recommendation: construction of an assembly room, 30 feet by 55 feet

21. Officer's quarters, adobe, 30½ feet by 44½ feet

First floor: parlor, sitting room, dining room, bedroom

Attic: 4 rooms

Wing: 14 feet by 34 feet, pantry, kitchen, laundry, servant's room

Addition: 6 feet by 19 feet, bathroom and water closet

Outbuilding: 8 feet by 12 feet, wood and coal shed

This set was being converted into one set of captain's quarters, electric bell system and tile hearths in parlor and dining room being installed.

22. Field officer's quarters, 2 story, wood frame, 46 feet by 47½ feet, covered porch on front 10 feet wide.

(Until 1884 this structure had served as the office of the Division Engineer. In 1884 it was converted into one set of field officer's quarters. By 1906 this was the post commander's residence. The Pershing family lived here at the time the building burned, 1915.)

First floor: parlor, bedroom, sitting room, dining room, bath

Upper floor: 4 bedrooms, bath, hall

Ell: 19½ feet by 20 feet

First floor: kitchen, laundry, pantry, buttery

Upper floor: 2 servants' rooms, hall

Outbuilding: 10 feet by 16 feet, wood and coal shed

23. Guardhouse, 2 story, wood frame, with belfry, 31 feet by 39 feet, upper and lower porches 10 feet by 39 feet connected by an outside stairway on side of building.

First floor: main guardroom, sleeping room, wash room, 8 cells 5 feet by 8½ feet each, hall

Upper floor: prison room and a room with 6 cells

Outbuilding: 12½ feet by 15½ feet, water closets

(Belfry added in 1884 as was a fence around the building.)

24. Headquarters offices, Division of the Pacific and Department of California (formerly 2 one-story barracks and 2 mess room/kitchens, all wood frame.

1. (former barracks), 1-story, 30 feet by 80 feet, 10-foot covered porch on front and one end.

Offices: assistant adjutant general (2 rooms), judge advocate, halls, commanding general, toilet, aides' room, water closets, mail room.

2. (former barracks), 1 story, 30 feet by 80 feet, 10-foot covered porch on front.

Offices: assistant inspector general, medical director, chief commissary, chief paymaster (2 rooms), chief quartermaster (2 rooms), telegraph office, janitor, halls, water closets.

3. (former mess hall) 1 story, 18 feet by 57 feet

Office for clerks assigned to assistant adjutant general

Addition, 32½ feet by 35½ feet, printing office

4. (former mess hall), 2 story, 18 feet by 100 feet

First floor: clerks for quartermaster and depot quartermaster, and office for depot quartermaster

Second floor: clerk for medical director, engineer officer's office, library, and his storeroom, photographic rooms.

A covered hallway, 10 feet by 34 feet, connected the four buildings.

25. Storeroom, depot quartermaster and post commissary, 1 story, wood frame

Covered front porch 12 feet wide

Room at end of porch, engineer officer's storeroom

Quartermaster storeroom, 29 feet by 82 feet

Commissary storeroom, office, sales room, storeroom, 70 feet long

Ell to end of building, 25 feet by 29½ feet, with basement

26. Post ordnance storeroom, 1 story, wood frame, 18 feet by 51 feet

One room 17 feet by 17½ feet, and one room 17 feet by 33 feet

27. Shops, depot quartermaster, wood frame, 30 feet by 150 feet

Three shops: carpenter, saddler, and blacksmith – wheelwright, plumber-thinner

Three blacksmith forges and fire furnace

28. Forage house, 1 story, wood frame, 31 feet by 149 feet

Main floor: forage and straw

Stone-walled basement: 32 feet by 150 feet, walls 8½ feet high

29. Post library, recreation room, etc. (former barracks and kitchen/mess hall connected by a covered hallway 6 feet by 29½ feet.

Front building (barracks), 30 feet by 80 feet, covered porch on front 10 feet wide

Functions: library, billiard room, storeroom, room for transient soldiers  
(casuals)

Rear building, 18 feet by 70 feet

Functions: bathroom, kitchen, draftsman's room

30. Barracks, 1 story, wood frame, 30 feet by 80 feet, covered porch on front 10 feet wide, squad room 29 feet by 79 feet.

31. Kitchen/mess room, 1 story, wood frame, 18 feet by 104 feet. Containing first sergeant's room, storeroom, 2 bathrooms, mess room, kitchen

32. Band barracks, 1 story, wood frame, 30 feet by 80 feet. Containing musicians' room, sleeping room, storeroom, band leader's room.

33. Kitchen/mess room, 1 story, wood frame 18 feet by 61 feet. Containing mess room, kitchen, bath and washroom.

34. Barracks, 1 story, wood frame, 30 feet by 80 feet. Containing two squad rooms and orderly room.

35. Kitchen/mess room, 1 story, wood frame, 18 feet by 61 feet. Containing wash room, kitchen, mess room

36. Water closets, 15½ feet by 21 feet, brick vault.

37. (86) Barracks for Troop M, 1st Cavalry, 2 story, wood frame, 30 feet by 120 feet, 10-foot wide porch on both floors.

First floor: company office, 1st sergeant's room, storeroom, kitchen, pantry, cook's room, mess room, bath and wash room (3 tubs), recreation room

Upper floor: squad room 29 feet by 119 feet

This barracks converted to two stories in 1884

38. Barracks for a light artillery company, 2 story, wood frame, 30 feet by 120 feet, 5-foot outside staircase on rear of building, 12-foot porch on front of both floors connected by 2 5-foot outside stairs.

First floor: kitchen, storerooms, mess room, library, office, equipment room, wash room

(1 tub)

Upper floor: squad room 29 feet by 119 feet; two noncommissioned officers' rooms, one on either end of upper porch

39. Water closet, wood frame, 15 feet by 20½ feet, brick vault

40. Bakery #1, 1 story wood frame, 18 feet by 55 feet, brick oven.

41. Bakery #2, 1 story, wood frame, 18 feet by 42 feet, brick oven (1884, out of repair).

42. Cavalry guardhouse, Troop M, 1st Cavalry, 1 story, wood frame, 15 feet by 15 feet.

43. Post stables, 1 story, wood frame, 30 feet by 66½ feet, loft for hay and straw, twelve 5-foot stalls, carriage room, harness room, granary

44. Stables, Troop M, 1st Cavalry, wood frame, 30 feet by 215 feet, dispensary, granary, storeroom, 74 5-foot stalls, loft for hay and straw

45. (The report did not list a building for this number. A 1906 map showed a very small structure, probably a sentry box/guard post in the stable area.)

46. Stables, for the light artillery battery

Front end: office, harness room, dispensary, granary, 2 box stalls

Stable: 30 feet by 179 feet, 74 5-foot stalls

Loft: hay and straw

In 1884 a fence 12 feet by 275 feet was constructed between the cavalry (44) and artillery (46) stables.

47. Artillery and cavalry shops, 1 story, wood frame, 16 feet by 66 feet

Artillery: shoeing shop, saddler shop, forge

Cavalry: shoeing shop, saddler shop, forge

48. Depot Quartermaster stable, 1 story, wood frame, 60 feet by 130 feet, harness room, storeroom, 90 5-foot stalls

49. Granary, 1 story, wood frame, 16 feet by 26 feet, 2 rooms

50. Gun shed, wood frame, 30 feet by 182 feet

Gun shed, wood frame, 30 feet by 90 feet by 9 feet. Upper portion occupied as (Catholic?) chapel

Sleeping room for civilian employees, 30 feet by 90 feet

Addition: 29 feet by 55 feet, mess room, kitchen, and storeroom for teamsters' mess

51. Wagon sheds, wood frame, 24 feet by 180 feet, carriage paint shop at one end.

52. Pumping works, 1 story, wood frame, 20½ feet by 47 feet, tool room, 2 engine rooms, boiler space, coal room, brick chimney 55½ feet tall.

53. Station, terminus Presidio & Ferries Railroad Company, 1 story, wood frame, 20 feet by 36 feet, 2 waiting rooms

Two additions: storeroom 10 feet by 10 feet, urinal 10 feet by 10 feet

54. Gate house, Lombard Street, 1 story, wood frame, 13½ feet by 25½ feet, 2 rooms

Ell: 12 feet by 16 feet, 1 room, porch in front

55. Gate house, 1st Avenue (Arguello Blvd.), 1 story, wood frame, 13 feet by 18 feet

Addition: 9 feet by 11 feet

56. Married enlisted men's quarters, 1 story, wood frame, four rooms, hall

57. Band stand, 12-foot octagon

58 and 59. At Fort Mason

60. Married enlisted men's quarters, triplex, 1½ story, wood frame, 28 feet by 90 feet

First floor: 12 rooms

Attic: 6 rooms

Covered porch on front

61. Married enlisted men's quarters, 4 sets, 1½ stories, wood frame, 28 feet by 49 feet

First floor: 4 front rooms, 4 kitchens

Attic: 4 rooms

Covered porch on front

62. Married enlisted men's quarters, 4 sets, 1 story, wood frame, 28 feet by 60 feet, 4 front rooms, 4 kitchens, covered porch on front

63. Married enlisted men's quarters, 4 sets, 1 story, wood frame, 28 feet by 60 feet, 4 front rooms, 4 kitchens, covered porch on front

64. Married enlisted men's quarters, 4 sets, 1 story, wood frame, 28 feet by 60 feet, 4 front rooms, 4 kitchens

65. Married enlisted men's quarters, 4 sets, 1 story, wood frame, 28 feet by 60 feet, 4 front rooms, 4 kitchens, covered porch on front

66, 67, 68, and 69. Same as 65.

70. Married enlisted men's quarters, duplex, 1½ stories, wood frame, constructed for 2 noncommissioned officers with families, 18 feet by 50 feet, kitchen part 15 feet by 30 feet

First floor: 2 halls, 2 front rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 bedrooms

Attic: 4 rooms

71. Hose house, wood frame, 12 feet by 25½ feet, 3 double doors.

72. (87) Barracks for Troop I, 1st Cavalry, 2 story, wood frame, 30 feet by 120 feet, 10-foot porch along front of both floors.

First floor: office, 1st sergeant's room, storeroom, kitchen, pantry, cook's room, mess room, hall, stairs, bath and wash room (3 tubs), recreation room.

Upper floor: squad room

Converted to 2 stories in 1884. Although the two cavalry barracks 37 and 72 (86 and 87) were given the same length in 1884, the original one story structures different in length by fifteen feet and today building 87 is longer than building 86.

73. Stables for Troop I, 1st Cavalry, wood frame, 30 feet by 215 feet, dispensary, granary, storeroom, 74 5-foot stalls, loft for hay and straw. Built in 1884.

74. Guard house for Troop I, 1st Cavalry, at stables, 1 story, wood frame, 15 feet by 15 feet. Built in 1884. (See 45, above)

75. Shops, for Troop I, 1st Cavalry, wood frame, 16 feet by 32½ feet, shoeing shop, saddler shop. Built in 1884.

76. Guard house, for Light Battery K, 1st Artillery, wood frame, 15 feet by 15 feet. Built in 1884.

A year later Humphrey drafted a long list of future improvements needed at the Presidio. Among them were plans for converting more barracks to two stories. While that was not accomplished, his idea to add a large number of bay windows to the officers' quarters was eventually realized. He listed a variety of paints and other materials for the improvement of post headquarters 20 (50): 20 pounds of Portland cement, white lead, golden ochre, raw umber, raw sienna, burnt umber, coach black, Indian red, ivory drop black, copal varnish, and coach Japan dryer. Humphrey's estimate for all this work came close to \$87,700, at a time when such funds were almost non-existent.<sup>53</sup>

As much as Captain Humphrey's report contributed to a thorough description of the main post area, another report, prepared by a division quartermaster, Col. Judson D. Bingham, in 1886 added further detail:

5. (12) Officer's quarters. Bay window constructed

20. (50) Construction of frame assembly room to the adobe post headquarters completed. Description:

Adobe, 23 feet by 160 feet, 1 story, 4 rooms

Frame, 30 feet by 55 feet, 1 story, 1 room

Frame, 18 feet by 23 feet, 1 story, 2 rooms

Condition: good

This assembly room replaced the court martial room.

Ten existing structures had not appeared on Humphrey's list:

78. Cow stables, 1 story, wood frame, 12 feet by 145 feet

---

53. C.F. Humphrey, June 6, 1884, Annual Report of Buildings, PSF, and Estimate of Materials and Labor, PSF, for Fiscal Year 1885, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

79. Scale house, 1 story, wood frame, 18 feet by 24 feet

80. Water closet, 1 story, wood frame, 8 feet by 12 feet

81. Oil house, 1 story, brick, 17 feet by 22 feet, one room

82. Water closet, 1 story, wood frame, 16 feet by 20 feet

83. Gate house, 1 story, wood frame, 12 feet by 16 feet (probably at the Presidio Boulevard entrance and built ca. 1883-1886 at a cost of \$667. The Lombard Street and Arguello Boulevard entrances had gate houses adapted from former laundresses' quarters)

84. Corral for sick animals.

85. Magazine, 1 story, stone, 24 feet by 28 feet.

86. Post hospital, 2 story, wood frame, 40 feet by 82 feet, 12 rooms

87. Hospital Steward's quarters, 1 story, wood frame, 24 feet by 36 feet, 4 rooms. Ell, 8 feet by 16 feet.

Bingham then listed seven new buildings:

88. (36) Barracks, 2 story, wood frame, 30 feet by 96 feet, 10 rooms. Constructed in 1885.

Barracks 88 (36) stood on the north end of the parade and east of 38, or approximately where 38 had stood when it first moved to the north end of the post.

Although Congress had not appropriated funds for the construction of division staff quarters in 1884, the Secretary of War authorized \$12,400 for four field officers' quarters in 1885. General prisoners excavated for the basements and foundations. Mr. F. Crowley won the construction contract (\$11,000) and began work. A modification in 1886 added wood and coal sheds, servants' water closets, and 832 feet of

sidewalk. Because Crowley failed to complete the four structures within the specified time, the Army ordered him to cease work. The Quartermaster Department took possession of the buildings and had the work completed. By August 1866 all that was left to do was increasing the chimney heights in order to carry off the smoke. These four buildings, then 91, 92, 93, and 94 (now 56, 57, 58, and 59) stood on opposite sides of Presidio Boulevard, east of the Funston Avenue officers' row. Each building – 2 story, 17 feet by 32 feet, 7 rooms

Front wing: 16½ feet by 17 feet

Rear wing: 13½ feet by 22½ feet

89. Barracks, 2 story, wood frame, 30 feet by 96 feet, 10 rooms. It stood east of barracks 88, the two blocking off the north end of the original parade ground.

94. Water closet, 1 story, wood frame, 16 feet by 30 feet.<sup>54</sup>

In Humphrey's 1884 account, the upper floor of the gun shed 50 served as a chapel. Most likely Catholics at the Presidio attended this temporary chapel, the post chapel and chaplain being Episcopalian ever since the Civil War. In 1883 adherents to the Roman Catholic Church at the Presidio requested that a chapel be built for them on the post. This request reached all the way to Secretary of War Robert Lincoln who refused to grant approval. Newspapers quickly picked up the story, the *New York Times* heralding, "Why Secretary Lincoln Refused a Permit to Build a Church." it quoted Lincoln as saying in the *San Francisco Bulletin* that the refusal had caused "some abuse of me in the newspapers, but I have not been disturbed by it." He added, "I am entirely opposed to giving anybody the use of Government land without the authority of an act of Congress and I refuse requests of this kind whether they are from railroad corporations or religious societies of any denominations."<sup>55</sup>

The issue did not die. In October, the Quartermaster General, Brig. Gen. Samuel Holabird, who earlier had been stationed at the Presidio, wrote that he knew personally that the Episcopal Chapel at the Presidio answered for those who attended the Episcopal service. He understood that a new chapel was required for Catholic worship, which included the majority of the enlisted men. "The old Chapel answers

---

54. J.D. Bingham, May 6, 1886, Annual Report of Condition of Public Buildings, PSF, 1886; "New Officers' Quarters at Presidio," n.d., CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

55. *New York Times*, August 3, 1883, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

its purpose well, but it is very small. It is a handsome diminutive structure of Redwood; it was never intended to seat the entire garrison. The Chaplain is an Episcopalian. Formerly the Catholics used one of the Barracks, then vacant. There are none vacant now." The War Department approved of a new chapel in November 1883 at a cost of \$4,000 (part of which Catholics would raise) provided it was not devoted to any special denominations.<sup>56</sup>

Maj. Gen. John Pope, commanding the Military Division of the Pacific in 1884, remained unhappy with the decision to build a new chapel. Because of the lack of construction funds in general, would it not be better to apply the money to enlarging the present chapel, "There is already a very nice and well finished Chapel at the Post which so far as my observation goes for the last four Sundays on which I have attended service there, has never been filled or crowded in any way. It does not appear to me advisable to abandon this Chapel for a new one. It is my observation that enlisted men never attend service at Military Chapels in any considerable numbers, perhaps from the fact that the services in them are not interesting to them. . . . Certainly I do not think this Chapel in such danger of being overrun by them as to demand immediate enlargement or a new building." Additional correspondence followed, but Catholic soldiers waited more than forty years for a chapel of their own.<sup>57</sup>

Trader Beretta, apparently profiting from his store, submitted a request in 1885 to build a new residence on the post for his large family. Gaining approval, he was required to consult with both the Department of California chief quartermaster and the commander of the Quartermaster Depot as to location. He submitted two different floor plans and finally received approval for the design and the location – at the south end of the married men's row and in line with those quarters. At the last moment, Lt. Col. Alexander Piper, post commander, noticed that Beretta's porch extended six or eight feet beyond the line and could see no reason why the house could not be moved back that distance.<sup>58</sup>

---

56. Holabird, ca. October 1883, and War Department, November 15, 1883, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

57. Pope, January 26, 1884, to War Department, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

58. Department of California, September 21, 1885, to CO, PSF; Beretta, October 8 and 20, 1885, to CO, PSF; Piper, October 20, 1885, Register of Letters Received, 1885-1886, PSF, RG 393, NA. The two story residence, minus its porch, 116, remains, but on a different site.

## H. The Smaller Things of Military Life

The first mention of a tennis court on the reservation occurred in 1885 when Lt. John M.K. Davis asked permission to "lay" a tennis court and a wind fence at the southeast corner of the lower parade ground (near the post hospital). The Department of California approved the request.<sup>59</sup>

The interiors of the post buildings always generated correspondence. One lieutenant sent a request for inside blinds for the front windows of his quarters. He had to tack up newspapers over the windows in order to feel comfortable. Officers living in the Corral received a warning not to deface the walls. Any ornaments had to be suspended from the picture mouldings only and "stationary lamps should be provided with suitable smoke catchers." One artillery company reported it had forty-five men but only six barracks chairs, one of which was broken. The post commander took pity and ordered twenty-one more from the Quartermaster Depot.<sup>60</sup>

Tragedy struck the cavalry stables in 1885. A curt post order directed that horses Killarney, Kicker, Kidnapper, Kadi, Kickapoo, and Kernel, Troop K, 2d Cavalry, suffering from glanders, be shot immediately.<sup>61</sup>

Armament at the post required attention in 1883. It then consisted of eight field guns and carriages, four mortars, a Gatling gun, two siege guns, and more than 5,000 projectiles. The post commander sought to employ an extra duty man at 35¢ a day, to pile the projectiles and to lacquer them – a dirty job that ruined clothing. A few months earlier the post ordnance officer wanted to remove the 3,000-odd cannon balls used for ornamental purposes about the post, principally at the alameda and division headquarters. Colonel Andrews replied that the commanding general had ordered them so placed and the exasperated

---

59. J.M.K. Davis, September 18, 1885, Register of Letter Received, 1885-1886, PSF, RG 393, NA. Lawn tennis was invented in England in 1873. It came to the United States via Bermuda and the first game in the United States was played at the Staten Island Cricket and Baseball Club, New York, in 1874. The U.S. Lawn Tennis Association organized and standardized rules and equipment in 1881. Funk and Wagnalls, *New Encyclopedia* (1986), 25:233-236.

60. L.L. Livingston, June 2, 1880, to Division of the Pacific, Letters Sent; CO, Battery D, 4th Artillery, November 21, 1880. Post Endorsements 1880-1881; Circular, October 13, 1885, Post Orders 1885-1886, PSF, RG 393, NA.

61. Orders 212, October 14, 1885, Post Orders 1885-1886, PSF, RG 393, NA. Glanders, a contagious, sometimes fatal disease caused by a bacillus, affecting lungs, respiratory track, and skin.

colonel could not order their removal, "The labor and expense bestowed upon the rows in the staff flower garden has never yet kept the shot clean more than ten days at a time."<sup>62</sup>

In 1881 the president of the Presidio Railroad Company, San Francisco, wrote General McDowell requesting permission to run its trains on the reservation as far as the officers' quarters. He said that the trains would run regularly every five or ten minutes from the ferry landings at the foot of Market Street, via Washington Street, Montgomery Avenue, Union Street, Steiner Street, and Greenwich Street, to the Presidio. The War Department agreed to this important development. By 1884 a passenger waiting room had been erected at the terminus about 1,000 feet east of the post hospital.<sup>63</sup>

When the Division first moved to the Presidio the flagstaff stood in the center of the parade ground opposite the alameda entrance. McDowell ordered a fenced roadway constructed from the alameda, across the parade ground, passing on either side of the flagstaff, to the Division headquarters. This lane was christened Flag Staff Avenue. In 1885 the Division quartermaster drew up specifications for a new flagstaff and put the project out for bids. Of the two proposals received, the Division awarded the contract to Middlemas and Book, San Francisco, for the sum of \$235. Then came the question of where to place it. The Quartermaster Department suggested rather than the parade ground, it be erected either in front of the post headquarters at the south end of the parade, or on the grassy plot immediately to the south of the Division headquarters. The post commander tactfully suggested the latter. Soon the Stars and Stripes flew from that site.<sup>64</sup>

Sewers and sewage came near the top of the list of perennial subjects. An interesting circular published in 1885 announced that the musician of the Main Guard would thereafter be responsible for flushing the

---

62. Andrews, March 9, 1883, Post Endorsements 1882-1884, and July 9, 1883, to CO, Benicia Arsenal, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA.

63. President, Presidio Railroad Company, February 1881, to McDowell and accompanying papers, Land Papers, PSF, OCE, RG 77, NA.

64. Upton, February 1, 1881, to Division of Pacific, Letters Sent; Brigham, July 2, 1885, and CO, PSF, July 2, 1885, Register of Letters Sent, 1885-1886, PSF, RG 393, NA; Humphrey, June 18, 1885, Abstract of Proposals for Construction of a Flagstaff, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA. The new flagstaff apparently was made up of metal segments, the bottom one consisting of a bundle of steel tubes held in place by steel brackets bolted around them, the whole staff supported with steel cables cinched tight with turnbuckles. A flagstaff of this type stood on the parade ground of former Fort George Wright in Spokane, Washington, in 1994. Observation by Historian Gordon Chappell, NPS.

water closets in the rear of the barracks, "Until all the musicians of the Guard are instructed as to the proper manner of flushing the Provost Sergeant will report at the Guardhouse at retreat each day to give the instructions." Another memo noted that the privy vaults for married soldiers and civilian employees had not been cleaned for two years. An outraged post adjutant wrote in 1887 that the vault of the Artillery privy had recently been cleaned only to find therein:

1 cuspidor	1 pistol
1 quart bottle	1 pipe
1 pint bottle	1 padlock
1 small bottle	1 spoon
1 lantern	3 cartridges

If, he said, such as this happened again, the soldiers would have to clean the vault personally, "The only thing to be thrown in is the necessary paper to answer a call of nature."<sup>65</sup>

Two additional items from this decade need to be noted. Further restrictions concerning the wooden sidewalk in the vicinity of the parade ground announced that everyone was prohibited from riding bicycles, coasting on wheels, or skating on the sidewalks. The only persons exempted from the order were those crossing the walks to get to their front yards. Finally, the bell on the guardhouse, never used as a fire alarm, was moved to the Presidio wharf for use during fog.<sup>66</sup>

## **I. Fort Point**

The artillery troops had marched out of Fort Point in March 1868 and the Presidio had assumed custody of the wood frame buildings that the soldiers had occupied. Army Engineers continued to be responsible for the masonry and the continuing construction of East and West batteries. In 1876, however, the Congress refused to appropriate further appropriations for harbor defenses and the work came to a halt. The Engineers discharged the workmen and sold off all the horses and mules – except one. This animal had reached the grand old age of thirty-seven; it had done good service; and it would have brought but little if sold. Chief Engineer Humphreys in Washington agreed that the faithful animal

---

65. Circular, March 22, 1885, Post Orders 1884-1885, PSF, RG 393, NA; Post quartermaster, July 28, 1886, Register of Letters Received 1886-1887; Post Adjutant, October 15, 1887, to Artillery Batteries, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA.

66. Circular, March 22, 1885, Post Orders 1884-1885; CO, PSF, October 12, 1885, Register of Letters Received, 1885-1886, PSF, RG 393, NA.

could have the run of the Presidio reservation until its natural death.<sup>67</sup>

In 1878, just as the Division moved to the Presidio and the garrison downsized to make room for the newcomers, two artillery batteries, A and K, 4th Artillery, arrived at San Francisco from Washington Territory. The barracks in the masonry fort at Fort Point became their immediate home, the frame barracks at Fort Point from the Civil War being uninhabitable. Hardly had the companies unpacked when the commanding general of the Army, William T. Sherman, paid them a visit.<sup>68</sup>

The Secretary of War had already approved the sum of \$3,700 for the repair of the seventeen wood frame buildings at Fort Point:

1. Commanding officer's quarters (the residence that Colonel DeRussy had built in 1855 at his own expense and acquired by the Army in 1865), 2 story, wood frame, 26 feet by 30 feet, and an ell, 13 feet by 24 feet, containing kitchen and pantry. A small, 1 story attached office measured 16 feet by 17 feet.

- 2 and 3. Officers' quarters, each a duplex, built during the Civil War, 2 story, wood frame, porches, each building 31 feet by 41 feet, with wood and coal sheds and wind fences. Six rooms in each set for a total of twenty-four.

4. Commissary storehouse, 2 story, wood frame, 20 feet by 40 feet, built in 1858 by the Engineer Department.

5. Coal shed, built 1862, 1 story, rough board and batten, 13 feet by 20 feet.

6. Post bakery, 1½ story, wood frame, 21 feet by 21 feet. Said to have been built in 1853; if so, Engineers built it before they began construction of the fort.

- 7 and 8. Two barracks, each 30 feet by 120 feet, built in 1865. By 1878 the Army used these for storage.

---

67. Bearss, *Fort Point*, p. 258.

68. Post Returns, Fort Point, September 1878. No notice of General Sherman's visit to the Presidio at this time can be found. It is possible that he came from the city by army steamer directly to Fort Point.

When the troops arrived they found the windows and doors missing. They described the buildings as "mere shells."

9, 10, 11, and 12. during the Civil War these had been kitchens and mess rooms for the two barracks. Each measured 16½ feet by 48½ feet. Now they became laundresses' quarters, their Civil War quarters farther east apparently having been razed.

13. Quartermaster stable and shed, built 1862, 20 animals, 24½ feet by 55½ feet. The adjoining shed measured 13 feet by 89 feet – hay, straw, and oats storage.

14. Blacksmith shop, 11½ feet by 29½ feet, built in 1858 by the Engineers.

15. Additional laundresses' quarters, 25 feet by 26½ feet, built in 1862.

16. Ordnance sergeant's quarters, 25 feet by 26½ feet, built in 1862.

17. Quartermaster storeroom and office, 30 feet by 60 feet.

Other structures at Fort Point included light keepers' residence south of the fort, lighthouse storeroom near the wharf (quartermaster used it in 1879), ordnance yards, East and West batteries, and the Engineers' compound on the bluff.<sup>69</sup>

At the end of 1879, steamer *McPherson* approached the Fort Point wharf with a cargo of supplies. The captain, William Ashcroft, judged the combination of a heavy swell and the worm-eaten fender piles as too dangerous for him to dock. As a result of this incident, the Secretary of War authorized unspecified repairs two months later. In March 1880 he allowed \$2,000 for the rehabilitation of the two barracks. The masonry fort continued to house troops but because of its darkness and dampness, the batteries rotated periodically between the two. By 1882 the upper floor of the commissary storehouse (16) served as post

---

69. Bearss, *Fort Point*, p. 276; Fuger, March 19, 1878, to Division of the Pacific, PSF, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA; map, Public Buildings at Fort Point, 1879; U.S. Army, *Outline Description, Military Posts in the Military Division of the Pacific, 1879*, pp. 92-93.

headquarters as well as an office for the post commissary.<sup>70</sup>

In 1882 Fort Point prepared a report on the condition of the buildings. Among the items requiring attention painting the officers' quarters topped the list – a lot of white lead and a little lamp black. The report also noted that one set of officer's quarters in the casemate housed an officer at that time. Troops now occupied the wood frame barracks, which needed minor repairs, their overall condition now good. As to be expected, the four laundresses' quarters out back were now called the quarters for married men. They all required to be "rewashed" and painted (800 pounds of white lead and sixteen barrels of redwash). Together, the four housed eight families.<sup>71</sup>

One building, location unspecified other than it stood near the barracks, now housed both a dispensary and a hospital steward, the dispensary in the casemates having been abandoned. Also in 1882 a clerk noted in the December post return that General Orders 133, November 25, AGO, headquarters of the Army, had been received. It changed the names of certain military posts at San Francisco. The Fort at Fort Point's name had become Fort Winfield Scott in honor of the late commander in chief of the U.S. Army.<sup>72</sup>

An inspector general visited Fort Scott in 1885. He criticized the casemate's having the guardhouse and prison because the fort continued to be damp and dreary. While this would not adversely affect the guards, prisoners would suffer if confined for long terms. He recommended removing the prisoners to the Presidio. The Presidio commander, however, protested that his guardhouse was already full. Moreover, the fort had already moved the prisoners into a wood frame (but unidentified) building.<sup>73</sup>

A year later, 1886, the three batteries then at Fort Scott, A, B, and C, 1st Artillery, transferred to various

---

70. Ashcroft, December 3, 1879, to "General Saxon," CCF, OCE, RG 77, NA; Haskin, January 31, 1882, in Angel Island File, and Meigs, March 26, 1880, to Division of the Pacific, PSF, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

71. Slaker, March 31, 1882, to QMG, CCF, OQMG RG 92, NA.

72. Alder, May 1, 1882, CCF, OQMG, RG 92, NA; Post Return, Fort Winfield Scott, December 1882; Bearss, *Fort Point*, p. 284. Historian Bearss points out that at the time Fort Winfield Scott included the casemated fort, East and West batteries, and the engineer and quartermaster buildings. The order, however, did not specify boundaries. Hereinafter, the area will be referred to as Fort Scott as often as not.

73. IG Inspection, December 28, 1885, Fort Winfield Scott, Register of Letters Received 1885-1886, PSF, RG 393, NA.

posts in the harbor and, once again, the area was abandoned as an independent post and returned to the Presidio's supervision. At this time its armament consisted of 129 mounted and unmounted heavy guns and two field pieces. Because of the weapons the Presidio commander wished to have an ordnance sergeant reside there. The Engineers, wishing to protect their investment, requested the establishment of a guard post part way between the main post and the fort.<sup>74</sup>

The headquarters of the Military Division of the Pacific remained at the Presidio of San Francisco for nine years, years that must have seemed long for both commanding general and post commander. The general had to occupy a small office in a humble barracks building, hardly a suitable environment for that rank and position of authority. The colonel, heretofore responsible for the entire military reservation, found himself without the authority to conduct much of the post's affairs. Even a majority of the principal buildings had been taken from his care. While artillery troops again garrisoned fort Winfield Scott for a time during the eighties, the fort was reduced to a caretaking status once again. Finally, in 1887, the War Department authorized the division headquarters to return to more suitable accommodations in downtown San Francisco. One positive outcome from the decade, not yet fully apparent, was General McDowell's presence on the post for four years. He was a stickler for improving the appearance of the reservation and its landscape.

---

74. Piper, December 26, 1886, to War Department, Letters Sent, PSF, RG 393, NA; Post Returns, Fort Scott, September 1886; Bearss, *Fort Point*, p. 323.